हुआ है जिसके तहत वह कंपनी गंगा के किनारे बसे शहरों में पानी की सप्लाई करेगी और एवज़ में वह गंगा की सफाई करेगी?

श्री सभापति: इन्होंने मना कर दिया है।

श्रीमती विजया चक्रवर्ती: सर, मैं यह स्पष्ट रूप से कहना चाहती हूं कि ऐसा कोई समझौता नहीं हुआ है। There is no such *Prabandhan*. ...(*Interruptions*)... कोई नहीं है।

श्री सभापति: ठीक है।

SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Sir, the sense is very clear. ...(*Interrutpions*)... The sense is very clear and now, enough is enough. I would like to have an assurance from the hon. Minister, if not from the Leader of the House. It is a very serious issue that Ganga is being privatised. Why can't a categorical statement come from the Government that there is no intention of the Government, in whatever way, or through whatever means, to privatise Ganga? Can you not say that also? ...(*Interruptions*)... Are you following a middle path here also? ...(*Interruptions*)... I am asking the Leader of the House. Are you follwoing a middle path here also? ...(*Interruptions*)... Are you following a middle path. ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY: Sir, I want to say that there is no provision to privatise Ganga in any way. This is my categorical statement, which you can accept. ...(*Interruptions*)...

श्री सभापति: उन्होंने मना कर दिया है।

Expansion of AI's Network to Attract NRIs

*288. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:††

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Air India is acquiring several medium capacity, long range aircraft with the aim of operating more frequent flights with fewer passengers;

(b) if so, whether it has plans to expand its services to woo NRIs;

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††The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Dr. T. Subbarami Reddy.

(c) whether the Air India has also planning to introduce a premium class that will have fewer seats, more leg space, better food and better wine for the NRIs; and

(d) if so, to what extent Air India has achieved success in their planning?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) In order to increase its market share in the international air travel between India and different countries, which includes Non Resident Indians (NRIs) as well, Air India has a plan to acquire new aircraft so that it will be able to phase out old aircraft, rationalise its fleet and increase its capacity in the market. The proposal has not yet been received by the Government.

Effective December 2002, Air India commenced thrice weekly flights to New Jersey to cater to the NRI traffic. Air India has also recommended its operations to Frankfurt.

(c) and (d) There is no plan at present to introduce a premium class on the existing flights. However, flat beds in the first class and slumberettes in executive class are being provided in B-747-400 aircraft operating on long haul sectors to make it more attractive. Improvements have also been done in the meal service and other inflight services on various sectors to attract more passenger.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to know this from the hon. Minister—since, recently, the Chairman of Air India has announced that they are going to acquire a medium size aircraft to carry the NRIs and operate flights frequently with less passengers so that it is more economical and more amicable. I would like to know what is the plan of action; and when you are going to acquire this medium size aircraft.

श्री सैयद शाहनवाज हुसैन: सभापति जी, राज्य सभा में पिछले हफ्ते भी मैं इस प्रश्न का उत्तर दे चुका हूं कि एयर इंडिया के पास एक प्रस्ताव है जिसमें सत्रह 250 सीटर लॉंग-रेंज एयर क्राफ्ट हैं। उस प्रस्ताव को एयर इंडिया के बं.ई ने अनुमोदित किया है और वह प्रस्ताव अभी पी०आई०वी०

और प्री-पी॰आई॰वी॰ होगा क्योंकि जो डिसइनवेस्टमेंट की लिस्ट है, उसमें से बाहर आने के बाद हम विचार करेंगे। इस तरह की योजना सरकार के पास है और मैं पहले भी इसका जवाब दे चुका हूं।

Income Tax Liability of Agricultural Credit Societies

*289. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether income tax is liable to be assessed on the members of the primary agricultural credit societies who deposit beyond Rs. 50,000/- in societies;

(b) whether Banking Regulation Act is applicable to the rural credit service co-operative societies;

(c) if so, to what extent;

(d) whether any representation from Government of Kerala has been received seeking exemption from furnishing the details of deposits of co-operative Banks to the income tax authorities; and

(e) if so, what action has been taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) to (e) A statement is placed on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) No, Sir. However, the Income Tax Department does collect information regarding deposits of more than Rs. 50,000/-, in cash, in a Bank.

(b) and (c) The Banking Regulation Act, 1949 is not applicable to primary agricultural credit societies, except in the manner and to the extent specified in the Act.